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NEWS

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BERGEN COUNTY Rep. Osmer Off To Europe on Arms Mission

HACKENSACK — Representative Frank C. Osmer Jr. has been designated by the chairman of the House Armed Services Committee to make an on-the-spot evaluation of the readiness and strength of American and NATO combat forces in Europe, including a visit to embattled Berlin.

The New Jersey Congressman left last night by plane for London and the first of a series of top-level briefings by U.S. and Allied military commanders. The tense situation in Berlin and along the approaches to the divided city will receive special attention from Osmer. He will make a confidential report upon his return to Chairman Carl Vinson (D. Ga.) chairman of the Armed Services Committee, and his committee colleagues.

The Ninth District representative is one of seven members of a special sub-committee of the Armed Services Committee that is regularly briefed by the Central Intelligence Agency. As a result of his service on this sub-committee, Osmer is one of the very few members of Congress selected to have access to the many classified information which our government gathers from all parts of the world through its intelligence agencies and otherwise.

In Paris, the Congressman will meet with General Lauris Norstad, the Supreme Allied Commander in Europe. Norstad is expected to give Osmer an up-to-the-minute estimate of the overall NATO posture on land, sea and air. His itinerary also includes conferences and personal inspection of defense installations and troops in England, France, Italy, Spain and Germany.

Osmer was last in Europe in 1957, when he and other members of the Armed Services Committee inspected the Allied security structure on the continent. The Bergen Congressman will be accompanied on the trip by Mrs. Osmer. She will travel as a private citizen at her own expense.

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